

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEVINE CALLS FOR PATIENCE, NOT PANIC OVER TOUCH-SCREEN VOTING

Safeguards the Assemblymember Previously Called For Are Necessary, But Moratorium Goes Too Far

SACRAMENTO – Assemblymember Levine released the following statement in response to the call by Senators Ross Johnson and Don Perata for a moratorium on touchscreen voting:

"While I commend Senators Ross Johnson and Don Perata for their dedication to the integrity of California's elections, I do not believe a moratorium on touch-screen voting is in order. Whether ballots are cast on a touchscreen or with paper and pencil, the possibility of error will always be present. I'm confident that Secretary of State Kevin Shelley and county election officials are addressing the problems with touch-screen technology that occurred during the March primary."

"Last month I stood alongside Secretary Shelley to introduce Assembly Bill 2843, ensuring that all voting systems in the State of California produce written records that can be verified by voters and used by elections officials in the event of an audit or recount. That same day I also asked the Assembly and Senate Elections Committees to hold a joint hearing as soon as possible to examine the issues surrounding electronic voting and voter verifiable paper trails."

"Cash strapped counties have spent the last few years purchasing, certifying, and implementing touch-screen voting technology. It is unnecessary and unreasonable to ask them to throw their hard work out the window. I recognize that questions and concerns about this new technology remain, but touch-screen voting opens new roads of opportunity for our democracy that should not be abandoned."

"The future and its promises are before us. We must seize the opportunities, overcome the obstacles, and ensure that Californians most basic democratic right is safe and secure."

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